



**CALIFORNIA  
HIGH-SPEED RAIL  
AUTHORITY**

**TO: Chairman Pringle and Authority Board Members**

**FROM: Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director**

**DATE: December 23, 2009**

**RE: Vision California Briefing  
Agenda Item 7**

The purpose of this agenda item is to present an overview of the “Vision California” study that is a joint effort of the Authority and the California Strategic Growth Council. Vision California is an unprecedented effort to explore the critical role of land use and transportation investments in meeting the environmental and fiscal challenges facing California over the coming decades. The Authority recently received a \$1.5 million grant from the Strategic Growth Council to complete the Vision California study effort.

Vision California, led by Calthorpe Associates, will produce tools which can evaluate alternative physical visions for how California can accommodate expected growth. The study will model the consequences of varying land use and transportation scenarios and provide robust quantifications of the benefits of a more sustainable, transit-oriented future for California--one that is anchored by a statewide HST network.

The study will provide essential context for the implementation of Senate Bill 375 and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) land use-related greenhouse gas-reduction targets for local governments. It will illustrate and comprehensively measure the role of land use and SB 375-mandated regional “Sustainable Communities Strategies” in meeting CARB AB 32 greenhouse gas targets.

Attached is a more detailed overview of Vision California (which is available on the Authority’s website). Initial findings from this effort are expected to be published in March 2010.

**Board Recommendation**

This is an informational item only.

**Attachments:**

- Summary – “Vision California” study overview